



Public Information Release

Northeastern Region Office
152 East 100 North Vernal, UT 84078

Concerned Hunter Helps UDWR Officers on Bare Top Mountain

September 23, 2011

Daggett County-

As hunters enjoy the outdoors, most utilize many different tools. One tool that has increased in popularity in recent years is the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV). Throughout the State of Utah, while many areas are open to OHV use, while others are closed to OHV use, in order to protect wildlife habitat and sensitive species. One of those areas is located in the Three Corners area, specifically, Bare Top Mountain. On August 24, 2011 a report was received by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) Conservation Officer Jack Lytle indicating there was an OHV being operated illegally on Bare Top Mountain. Bare Top Falls within the North Slope, Three Corners limited entry elk unit.

Historically, OHV use in the area has been a problem, with reports being received every years of OHV operators going around the gates into the closed area. The Bare Top area provides tremendous wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities which are widely recognized and highly valued by sportsman and non-consumptive users alike.



On August 27, 2011 UDWR Conservation Officer Ben Wolford apprehended an individual who had decided to use his four-wheeler to retrieve a legally taken elk from Bare Top Mountain. To make matters worse, the subject had only brought the head and the meat associated with the back-strap and tender loins out on the OHV. Officer Wolford was able to contact and apprehend this individual with the assistance of a concerned local sportsman who had observed the subject retrieving a harvested elk with a 4-wheeler from a motorized-vehicle restricted area.

UDWR conservation officers were assisted in the investigation by deputies with the Daggett County Sheriff's Office and law enforcement officers with the U.S. Forest Service.

"Most people respect the travel restrictions on Bare Top Mountain. In this specific case, the individual who received the citations made a couple of bad decisions" stated local Conservation Officer Jack Lytle. " Obviously, he didn't plan ahead when he chose to hunt this area. The archery elk hunt occurs during a pretty warm part of the year. I contact quite a few responsible elk hunters who take the necessary precautions to avoid having their elk spoil; lining up someone with horses, or, getting enough friends to help pack the elk out. The hunter in this case harvested the elk in a remote area, and then he chose to unlawfully use an OHV to retrieve it."

If you are aware of a poaching violation, please help us protect your wildlife. Contact the UTiP Hotline at 1-800-662-3337.

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